

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action mailed April 12, 2007 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment and Response to Final Office Action be admitted under 37 C.F.R. 1.116. Applicants submit that this amendment presents claims in better form for consideration on appeal. Furthermore, applicants believe that consideration of this amendment could lead to favorable action that would remove one or more issues for appeal. Applicants submit that thus there is good and sufficient reason why this amendment should be admitted now. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 51 and 67 - 74 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. In the specification, the second and third paragraphs of the “Cross-Reference to Related Applications” section have been amended to update current statuses. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added with these amendments.

With this amendment it is respectfully submitted the claims satisfy the statutory requirements.

The 35 U.S.C. § 101 Rejection

Claims 1-39 and 67-74 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 14 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Zhang et al.¹.

Claims 1-2, 14-15 and 27-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by Jacobson et al.².

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 3-5, 9-11, 16-18, 22-24, 29-31, 35-37, 40 and 42-51 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Jacobson in view of Loehndorf, Jr. et al.³ among which claims 40 and 46 are independent claims.

The rejected claims have been canceled. Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims contain patentable subject matter as identified by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Request for Entry of Amendment

Entry of this Amendment will place the Application in better condition for allowance, or at the least, narrow any issues for an appeal. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment is appropriate and is respectfully requested.

¹ U.S. Patent No. 6,119,160

² U.S. Patent No. 6,044,402

Conclusion

It is believed that this Amendment places the above-identified patent application into condition for allowance. Early favorable consideration of this Amendment is earnestly solicited.

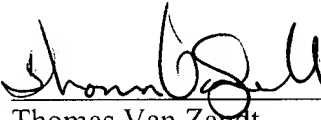
If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any additional required fee or credit any overpayment not otherwise paid or credited to our deposit account No. 50-1698.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 7/12/07


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³ U.S. Patent No. 6,094,437